



PRESS RELEASE

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IDENTITY THIEF NETS PRISON TERM

PHOENIX –The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on June 15, 2004, Amanda Patricia Bossingham, age 31, of Las Vegas, Nev., was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia in Phoenix for Misuse of a Social Security Number.

Bossingham assumed the identity of a California woman and applied for bank loans from Phoenix area banks just two months after she ran a similar scam in Colorado using a Colorado woman's identity. The original charges against Bossingham included Bank Fraud, False Statements to a Bank, Identity Theft and Misuse of a Social Security Number.

Bossingham had entered a plea of guilty on November 6, 2003, to Misuse of a Social Security Number, a violation of 42 U.S.C. 408(a)(7)(D), and in exchange, the remaining counts were dismissed.

Bossingham used the personal identifying information of a California resident to apply for lines of credit at banks in the Phoenix area. Court documents show she applied at six different

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banks for lines of credit totaling \$115,000, and used the name, date of birth, and Social Security Number of the California resident as her own. Once the lines of credit were established, she drew down the lines by writing checks, sometimes "kiting" checks from one bank account to another to artificially inflate the balances in the checking accounts, ultimately causing losses in excess of the authorized line of credit limits. Bossingham started her activity in Arizona within 60 days of her arrest in Colorado for a similar identity theft-bank fraud scam using the identity of a Colorado resident. Charges in that case are not yet resolved.

At the completion of her 14 months in federal custody, Bossingham will be on supervised release for three years, with the following conditions: She must provide the probation office access to any requested financial information and is prohibited from making major purchases or incurring new financial obligations without prior approval of her probation officer. Lastly she is restricted from engaging in any occupation or business where she might have access to the personal identification information of others.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Secret Service and the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General.

The prosecution was handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix .

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-477-PHX-MHM
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